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VILLAGE VETTES CORVETTE CLUB 2018

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We have just completed a December that will dazzle all of our members. We started the month with a slam bang Christmas Party. It was held at the Eisenhower Rec Center on December 2nd and catered by FMK Catering (Evans Prairie etc.). The menu consisted of Steamship Round of Beef and the largest turkey ever to get loose in The Villages, both at carving stations. In addition, a fish dish was presented and all “The Go With” was available. To round out the night, Mishee Stoeber provided the entertainment. Many compliments were heard. Roger Stokes did all of the “spade work” and jumped through numerous hoops to make this party happen. A round of applause for Roger and his crew.

Then to follow up to the Christmas Party, we had The Mt. Dora Christmas Light Drive and Dine on December 5th including carriage rides, hay wagon rides, and boat tours of the Christmas Lights of Mt. Dora. Dinner at The Lakeside Hotel was enjoyed by all. Richard Ford did all of the leg work and lined the whole day up without a hitch. Richard, the Village Vettes Corvette Club appreciates your efforts, Thank You.

If those two events were not enough, 45 members went on the Toys for Tots (T4T) Caravan from George Nahas Chevrolet to the T4T toy warehouse. The caravan was led by three vans packed with 1,400 toys and almost \$12,000. The T4T Drive, led by former Village Vettes President, Mike White and his crew, was the best collection to date. Mike wants to “Thank All” for their efforts.

We have started the new year with a Big Bang. ***Sign up now for the Grand Oaks Event on January 21st.*** This “Cruise In” will be in conjunction with a horse show and equestrian events. We need as many as possible to show up. You really need to be there and support our club. Trophies and awards will be awarded to those that participate through a random drawing.

The January meeting is at Eisenhower Rec Center on 01/11/18, at 6:30 PM. The pre-meeting dinner will be at Bonefish Grill starting at 4:00 PM. Bonefish is located on Wedgewood Lane (CR 466). The limit is 50 people and seating will be random in their dining room. Please arrange yourselves into groups of 4 / 6 people and identify yourself as Village Vette Diners. Don’t forget to sign up on our web site!

Those of us on the Board of Directors would like to “Thank You” for your confidence. We will forge ahead and present activities and events that I hope will delight our members. Many will be new and different than what we have had in the past. The Board appreciates your comments and will work to satisfy your concerns.

Gene McConkey

Stetson Mansion Holiday Tour Cruise



On November 30th, 40 members of the Village Vettes Corvette Club cruised to Deland to tour the



Stetson Mansion Christmas Spectacular. Amazingly, for the most part, we were able to stay together for the

90 minute trip. It wasn't until one block from the mansion that some of the group missed the turn.

The decorations are not to be believed. Tremendous design and display of everything Christmas. The tour guide was enthusiastic and you could see how proud she was to show us the mansion. Some members of the group even had J.T., the designer and owner, to give the tour. The architecture of the mansion is also not to be missed. Spectacular woodwork and even original lights designed by Thomas Edison.

The tour was followed by dinner at Francesco's Ristorante in Summerfield.

This is one cruise that we might want to consider as an annual trip.



Meet Your President and His Lady:

Gene and Bette McConkey came to The Villages in 2009, toured and purchased in the same weekend. Initially they moved into the Bonita neighborhood. Gene did not retire until 2011, therefore they used the house as a vacation unit for several years. After Gene retired, that house was not large enough for both of them, so they had a larger unit built in Gilchrist. This home was five years old in December and has weathered well.

Gene and Bette moved to The Villages from Mukwonago, WI, a suburb 25 miles SW of Milwaukee. Bette worked for C & H Distributors, a distributor of industrial products, as a manager in the accounts payable department. Gene was employed by Haldex Brake Products, a manufacturer of air brake devices. Gene's assignment was to work with the major trailer manufacturers East of The Mississippi. Gene and Bette have two kids, a son that resides in San Diego and a daughter that lives in Chicago.

The McConkey's purchased their first Corvette, an '86 coupe in 1993. It was a two-tone brown over brown car that was very rough. They mothered the car for a couple of years and had it running. Their plan was to drive Route 66 from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA. Just as they were about to depart, Gene latched onto a '93 coupe, polo green, tan interior, a very pretty car. That is the car they finally drove on Route 66, a magnificent trip as Gene described. The Route 66 Trip was in year 2000. Just as the C6 was launched, Gene tripped over a 1999 magnetic red, white top, 6-Speed, Rag Top. The car had every option available and this was always Bette's favorite ride. Two years later, 2007, a friend gave Gene a lead for a 1998 Pace Car. It had been stored for several years and the owner was moving and could not take the car with them. The car had been purchased in Milwaukee, but had been trailered to spend winters in Key West. When purchased, the car had 7,500 miles on the clock. It is mostly original to this day, but Bette still wishes they had the '99 Rag Top. Bette does not appreciate the pace car "Pop Art".

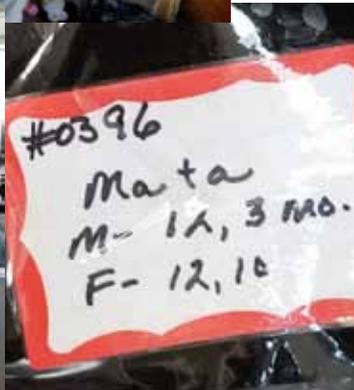
When the McConkey's were in Wisconsin, they were members of the Muskego Corvette Club. After a couple of years, Gene became a member of the board and eventually president. They led trips all over the Midwest, the Dream Cruise twice, Mid America Fun Fest, Circle the Lake, and several different Color Runs.

Gene and Bette have been members of Village Vettes since 2011, having been recruited at the Lake Sumter Landing Starbucks. They enjoy the people and the friendships that these cars create, and especially the people from Village Vettes.

TOYS FOR TOTS 2017



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Maresca from Rhode Island lives in the Village of Chatham. Paul drives a 1998 C5 Silver roadster.

Michael Flasch from Detroit, Michigan lives the Village of Bridgeport at Creekside Landing. Michael drives a 2018 C7 Alpine White roadster.

John Shamblin from Tuscaloosa, Alabama lives in the Village of Piedmont. John drives a 2012 C6 Artic White Grand Sport roadster. In addition, John owns a 1971 C3 Silver 454 coupe.

Robert Boiley from Illinois lives in the Village of Pine Hills. Robert drives a 2002 C5 Electron Blue fixed roof coupe (FRC). In addition, Robert owns a 1963 Black spilt window coupe.

Hugh & Joy McNaughton live in the Village of Calumet Grove. Hugh & Joy are owners of a 2017 C7 White coupe.

Jim Covert and Patty Hoxie from Michigan live in the Village of Pine Ridge. They own a 2016 C7 Long Beach Red coupe.

Upcoming events (cruises and car shows)

for details and signup member must logon to our website
VILLAGEVETTES.COM

1/11 - Thursday
Pre-meeting dinner Bonefish Grill 4pm
Meeting at Eisenhower 6:30 pm

1/21 - Sunday
Grand Oaks "Cruise In"

CORVETTE FACT

Did you know that in 1994, Corvette experimented with a Copper Metallic exterior color (code 66)? After producing only 116 units, the Copper Metallic was dropped. It seems Corvette had a problem with quality concerns (the Copper Metallic paint on the rubber front and rear bumpers failed to match the body color).